

SEPTEMBER
2026



Selkirk Montessori School E-Newsletter

From the Head of School, Erin Hayes

September has been a wonderful reminder that we are truly a community school. The Selkirk Parent Group hosted a tasty and very well attended Back to School Picnic. They have a number of wonderful activities and fundraisers planned for the year. All parents are welcome to attend their first meeting of the year, which will be held on Thursday in the Kingfisher Room. Thank you SPG!

Another place you will find community is in the classroom. Parents, please join us tomorrow night, September 15th for our Parent Orientation. Teachers will share insights into the wonderful year ahead. You will also be asked to fill out your verification forms there.

All club information is trickling out – cross country is the first to start the year. If there is a club you or your child might like to see in the school, we are happy to provide a space, some support, and a little budget to help get that running. Just pop by the office to talk with Erin or Charlotte. We hope to send most club options out at once so you can prioritize which appeal most to your family.

I must also take a moment to acknowledge the staff and students who made this a smooth start up. Our students took the cue from our calm and organized teachers and have had a productive and joyful start to the year. Thank you for the confidence you instill with your children in your positive attitude toward the school. You make this school such a diverse and inspiring place to learn.

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September: Back to School - A new school year is a wonderful time to reconnect, settle into routines, and look forward to the year ahead.

Pacific Montessori School

Board of Directors Chair – Penny Barner

The Pacific Montessori Society Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on November 26th at 7:00 pm at Selkirk Montessori School. RSVP penny@selkirkmontessori.ca if you plan to attend.

Directors will present reports for the last school year, the 2026-2027 approved budget will be available, and we will review the financial statements for 2025-2026.

Current directors Courtney Stewart and Francis Rowe will be running for another three-year term. We also have two new members of the school community who are interested in running for office at the AGM:

Angela Heathfield

Excerpts from Resume and Letter:

“People & Culture leader with expertise in organizational strategy, compensation, policy development, and governance. Committed parent volunteer and active member of the Selkirk Montessori community.”

I am writing to express my interest in joining the Board of Directors of the Pacific Montessori Society. My children attend Selkirk Montessori, and I have been actively involved in the school community through the School Parent Group since 2023. It is that involvement, combined with my professional work, that brought this opportunity into focus for me.

As a People and Culture Business Partner at Reimagine Work, a local HR consultancy, I consult with organizations across a range of sectors, including two independent Montessori schools. That work gave me a clear view of how differently independent schools are positioned when it comes to HR infrastructure and support. Without the resources of the public system or the budgets of larger private institutions, schools like Selkirk are navigating real challenges around staff compensation, retention, and development largely on their own. When I saw the call for board applicants, I found myself wondering whether Selkirk was facing similar pressures, and whether my background might be of genuine use at the governance level.

The Strategic Plan’s first priority, becoming an employer of choice through competitive compensation, professional development, and employment flexibility,

is work I do every day. I have built compensation strategies and total rewards frameworks, supported organizations through difficult restructures, developed career pathing and job

Pacific Montessori School

Board of Directors Chair – Penny Barner

levelling programs, and coached leaders through the kinds of people decisions that shape culture over time. I also bring direct experience working with both corporate and governance

boards. I served a full term as Secretary on the Board of the Esquimalt Farmer's Market, where I contributed to the expansion from one to two locations, helped develop accountability and communication structures to support effective governance, and stepped in as Interim Executive Director for several months during a period of leadership transition.

I have done my own due diligence before applying, speaking with school administration, a couple of past board members, and the current SPG chair to better understand where the board's energy is focused and where gaps in capacity might exist. That process gives me confidence that my skills are relevant to the board's current priorities, and that my ongoing presence in the school community, which I plan to maintain through the SPG in a smaller capacity, would allow me to contribute in meaningful ways.

Jackie Magee

Excerpts from Resume and Letter:

"I build and lead high-performance marketing organizations that drive global growth for the world's leading technology companies, including Google, Amazon, and Microsoft. Throughout my career, I have held leadership roles across the full marketing stack—from product marketing and brand building to integrated demand generation and field marketing. This cross-functional perspective allows me to build integrated GTM strategies that bridge the gap between complex technology and scalable revenue."

Please accept this letter and my attached resume as a formal expression of my interest in serving on the Board of Directors for Selkirk Montessori School. With a daughter who has been immersed in Montessori education since preschool and at Selkirk for the last two years, our family is deeply invested in the long-term health of this community. I am eager to offer my professional experience in global leadership, marketing, and organizational transformation to support the school's

governance, strategic vision, and community trust. Throughout my career at Google, Microsoft, and Amazon, I have built and led high- performance organizations that operate at a global scale. I hope to bring this executive lens to the Board to support the Society's long-term sustainability, specifically in the

following areas:

Pacific Montessori School

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- **Brand Strategy & Community Engagement:** My career in global marketing is built on protecting brand equity and translating complex organizational narratives into clear, impactful

messaging. I can offer the Board an experienced perspective communicating Selkirk's unique value proposition to current and prospective families and the broader community.

- **Strategic Oversight & Operational Health:** I bring deep expertise in organizational health, fiscal responsibility, and institutional alignment. I am highly experienced in ensuring that long-term strategic goals are met with absolute transparency, accountability, and rigorous governance.

- **Change Management & Organizational Resilience:** I have significant experience leading large-scale organizations through periods of evolution and growth. This includes directing crisis response, executive communications, and cultural transformation initiatives designed to maintain stability, alignment, and morale during times of transition.

I am a firm believer in the Montessori method and its unique ability to foster independent, critical thinkers. My interest in joining the Board is rooted in stewardship; I want to ensure that Selkirk Montessori School continues to be a thriving, well-governed institution for years to come.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to the opportunity to contribute to the future of our school community.

Selkirk Parent Group (SPG) Update

CHILDHOOD ANXIETY - BUILDING RESILIENCE

EMPOWERING STRATEGIES

EFFECTIVE SUPPORTS



FREE LIVE Presentation and Discussion By:

Julie-Anne Richards, M.A., R.C.C., C.C.C.

Registered Clinical Counselor, Psycho-educational Consultant

www.JulieAnneRichards.com

6:00-7:30 pm, Tuesday
September 29, 2026

**Selkirk Montessori School
in the Gymnasium**

2970 Jutland Rd, Victoria

Registration Link Below

Tailored for Parents,
Caregivers and Educators
supporting children
ages 3 – 14

**Sponsored by
Selkirk Montessori School**

Free Live Event!

REGISTRATION REQUIRED (copy and paste in browser)

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/free-live-parent-presentation-on-childhood-anxiety-by-julie-anne-richards-tickets-1999730560939>

Childminding Available by Donation, Please Book Spaces at
Registration

This Presentation is structured for an Adult Audience

Sponsored by Selkirk Montessori School – Childminding by Donation

Funded by the Eric Foundation www.ericfoundation.com

Selkirk Parent Group (SPG) Update

SELKIRK PARENT GROUP

☆ Building community. Supporting classrooms. ☆

2026 / 2027

Welcome to the SPG

A quick guide to who we are, how to get involved, and what's happening this school year. Keep this on hand for quick reference through the year!

STAY
CONNECTED

selkirkparentgroup.com



Scan for
updates

WHO WE ARE ☆

The Selkirk Parent Group is an independent group of the Pacific Montessori Society and our role is to support Selkirk Montessori School through community-building events and fundraising activities. Every dollar we raise supports classroom programs and school initiatives!

WHAT WE DO ☆

- Fundraise for classroom activities, field trips, and supplies
- Host community events throughout the year
- Create opportunities for families to connect and build school spirit

WANT TO GET INVOLVED? ☆

Everyone is welcome, whether you can help once, often, or simply have an idea to share. You can find all of the dates for our upcoming meetings on the back! You can also email us at anytime at spg@selkirkmontessori.ca

SAVE THE DATES

Community events for 2026 / 2027

SEP 26	Fall Social Saturday		OCT 05	Fall Education Night Week of Oct 5	
OCT 30	Halloween Howler Friday		JAN 21	Open House Thursday	
FEB 18	Board Game Night Thursday		MAY 01	Multicultural Dinner Saturday	



Keep this handy, dates and details may be updated throughout the year.

Selkirk Parent Group (SPG) Update



YOUR SPG YEAR AT A GLANCE

2026 / 2027 FUNDRAISERS ☆

Every fundraiser supports Selkirk classrooms

- Apples Fall
- West Coast Seeds Winter
- Purdy's Fall + Spring
- Art Cards Spring
- Parachute Ice Cream Spring

Want to run a fundraiser
or have an idea? Get in touch.
spg@selkirkmontessori.ca

ONGOING FUNDRAISING ☆

Mabel's Labels

These are the perfect labels to
help keep track of kiddos items!

When you order, make sure
you indicate that you support
Selkirk Montessori Victoria.



Spirit Wear

Our spirit wear shop is open
year round, place orders at
any time!

Can't wait to see families
showing their Selkirk pride
in the community.



SPG MEETING NIGHTS ☆

Everyone is welcome • 6:00 pm •
Kingfisher Room

Thu Sep 17

Thu Oct 15

Thu Nov 19

Thu Dec 10

January — TBC

Thu Feb 25

Thu Apr 8

Thu May 13

Thu Jun 10

Questions or agenda ideas?
spg@selkirkmontessori.ca

HOT LUNCH ☆

Term 1 ordering: Sept 3 - Sept 14

Term 2 ordering: Nov 26 - Dec 10

Pay by e-transfer instead of credit card to help the
SPG save on fees. selkirkhottlunch@gmail.com.

PIZZA LUNCHES

Held once a month on Fridays. **Term 1 dates:**

Fri Oct 30

Fri Nov 20

Fri Dec 18



Hot lunch and Pizza lunch
can be ordered here:
munchallunch.com/login

Activities and Events



Back-to-School BBQ — A Wonderful Start to the Year!

The SPG kicked off the new school year with a fantastic **Back-to-School BBQ on Wednesday, September 9!** It was a great opportunity for students, families, and staff to come together, reconnect, and enjoy some time as a school community.

A big **thank you to the SPG and all the volunteers** who helped make the event such a success! Your time, energy, and enthusiasm helped create a warm and welcoming start to the school year.

We look forward to more exciting SPG activities and opportunities to connect throughout the year!





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250-384-3420 (fax)
office@selkirkmontessori.ca

We can make a difference!

www.selkirkmontessori.ca

✿ Bursary Fund Update ✿

Due to a supply chain issue, we have temporarily paused our Flower Bursary Wall. In the meantime, we would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the support of our Bursary Fund.

Thank you to Carolyn Andrew for your generous donation. Your support helps make Montessori education more accessible to families in our community and makes a meaningful difference in the lives of our students.

We are incredibly grateful for your generosity and commitment to our school community.

Dates to Remember

- * September 15 – Parent Orientation
- * September 18 – Soccer Jamboree (Gr 4 & 5)
- * September 21 – NID (Non-Instructional Day)
- * September 22 – Terry Fox Assembly
- * September 23 – Ultimate & Cross Country
- * September 29 – Parent Education Night
- September 30 – Truth & Reconciliation Day

Selkirk Montessori School is located on the traditional territories of the Lək'wəŋən people, today known as the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations. We extend our appreciation for the opportunity to live and learn on this territory.